altogether, as "just an outcome of the disease," and by dismissing all of his son's letters as "so insane that they would cause you pain rather than satisfaction." The effect of Clarke's diagnosis is to utterly dismiss Mr. Cooper's point of view by reducing it to a "symptom." He subsequently has nothing to say -- or write.

Yet these letters are an eloquent indication of Mr. Cooper's state of mind -- and his reasons for it. Like Mr. Ross above, he keenly appreciated the disastrous implications of having been committed, and worked off some of his despair in a series of metaphors:

> My career hence-forward will be somewhat like the steam engine's flash-light: travelling on, on, on, and never stopping. Or better, like the man lost in the woods and travelling in a circle. Again, like one who, without compass, might attempt to cross Lake Superior from Duluth to the Sault in a row-boat. Or to be plain, like one who, with all things necessary to reach the desired end, deliberately takes the key that should open the door of his prison and throws it out the window.

The tenor of all of these comparisons is the long, slow passage of time bringing about nothing -- except loss, ruin, extinction.

To write his father on January 5 1911, he had to ask Attendant Johnston for pen and paper. It is odd to think of the authorities supplying the materials for a letter they intended only to intercept -- or dismiss as "insane." The son's concern to point out that by calling his father's letter "interesting" he was not being sarcastic, like a "newspaper or marginal reader" returning a rejected manuscript, seems instead to highlight the possibility. Moreover, the denial momentarily puts the father in the position of the rejected author, the likely vengeance of a son humiliated partly for his literary pretentions. Mr. Cooper proceeds to hints at more serious sexual matters which his father, a minister, had been unable to address or had failed to recognize because "you preachers, fire-men trying to extinguish the Burning Bush ... you preachers are good fellows: but you don't kn(own) the whole cheese."

In his admission narrative Mr. Cooper had dramatized the negative role of a particular physician. He concludes this letter to Dr. Stead with a bitter "final suggestion" that he show his letter to Doctor McKay, evidently for him to show to his "rival practitioner" Dr. Ross, to correct what he, Mr. Cooper